

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1                   1.     A forme cylinder for a rotary offset press, said cylinder comprising  
2     an axis and a substantially cylindrical circumferential surface for accommodating a  
3     printing forme, said cylinder having an axial center and opposed axial ends, said  
4     surface being convexly curved so that the diameter of the forme cylinder is greatest in  
5     the axial center and smallest at the axial ends.
- 1                   2.     A forme cylinder as in claim 1 wherein said circumferential surface  
2     has a profile which describes a circular arc.
- 1                   3.     A forme cylinder as a in claim 1 wherein said circumferential  
2     surface has a profile which describes a second order parabola.
- 1                   4.     A forme cylinder as in claim 1 wherein said forme cylinder is a plate  
2     cylinder having a cylinder channel extending along said circumferential surface, said  
3     channel having a pair of opposed overhangs defining a channel width which is constant  
4     over the axial length of said channel.
- 1                   5.     A forme cylinder as in claim 4 further comprising a printing plate  
2     having a leading printing plate radius, a trailing printing plate radius, a pair of printing  
3     edges having an edge length extending between said radii, and a center having a  
4     center length extending between said radii centrally of said edges, said trailing radius  
5     being bent along an arc so that said center length is greater than said edge length.

- 1                   6.     An offset rotary printing press comprising:
- 2                   a pair of blanket cylinders set against one another for recto and verso
- 3 printing; and
- 4                   a pair of forme cylinders set against respective said blanket cylinders, said
- 5 forme cylinders each comprising an axis and a substantially cylindrical circumferential
- 6 surface for accommodating a printing forme, each said forme cylinder having an axial
- 7 center and opposed axial ends, said surface being convexly curved so that the diameter
- 8 of the forme cylinder is greatest in the axial center and smallest at the axial ends.